

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Madeleine Clayton 04/18/2002
Departmental Forms Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
14th and Constitution Ave. NW.
Room 6086
Washington, DC 20230

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken the following action on your request for the extension of approval of an information collection received on 02/04/2002.

TITLE: Northwest Region Gear Identification Requirements

AGENCY FORM NUMBER(S): None

ACTION : APPROVED WITHOUT CHANGE

OMB NO.: 0648-0352

EXPIRATION DATE: 04/30/2005

BURDEN	RESPONSES	BURDEN HOURS	BURDEN COSTS
Previous	20,552	5,138	5
New	12,317	3,079	3
Difference	-8,235	-2,059	-2
Program Change		0	0
Adjustment		-2,059	-2

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: None

OMB Authorizing Official Title

Donald R. Arbuckle Deputy Administrator, Office of
Information and Regulatory Affairs

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated
	5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
7. Title	
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	
9. Keywords	
10. Abstract	
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals or households d. <input type="checkbox"/> Farms b. <input type="checkbox"/> Business or other for-profit e. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government c. <input type="checkbox"/> Not-for-profit institutions f. <input type="checkbox"/> State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Application for benefits e. <input type="checkbox"/> Program planning or management b. <input type="checkbox"/> Program evaluation f. <input type="checkbox"/> Research c. <input type="checkbox"/> General purpose statistics g. <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory or compliance d. <input type="checkbox"/> Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator or head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or Staff Office)	
Signature	Date
Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer	
Signature	Date

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
NORTHWEST REGION GEAR IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-0352**

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

This submission requests renewal of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for gear-marking requirements in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery.

Gear identification requirements are necessary to help ensure the success of fisheries management programs by facilitating fisheries law enforcement efforts. Gear marking is also valuable in actions concerning gear damage, loss, and civil proceedings. The ability to link fishing gear to the vessel owner or operator is crucial to enforcement of regulations issued under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Fixed-gear marking requirements are set forth in the regulations implementing the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fisheries Management Plan at 50 CFR 660.322(c)(3). Relevant excerpts from these regulations are attached. Gear-marking requirements specify that each type of fixed-gear must be marked with the owner's identifying number.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used.

The regulations specify that fishing gear must be marked with the vessel's official number, federal permit or tag number, or some other specified form of identification. Law enforcement personnel rely on this information to assure compliance with fisheries management regulations. Gear that is not properly identified is considered a violation of Federal regulations and is confiscated. The identifying marks on fishing gear is used by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), USCG, and other marine agencies in issuing violations, prosecutions, and other enforcement actions. Gear marking also helps ensure that a vessel harvests fish only from its own traps/pots/other gear and that traps/pots/other gear are not illegally placed. Properly marked fishing gear facilitates prosecution of gear violations, and enhances cost-effective enforcement. Cooperating fishers also use the gear markings to report placement or occurrence of gear in unauthorized areas. Regulation-compliant fishermen ultimately benefit, as unauthorized and illegal fishing is deterred and more burdensome regulations are avoided.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

The requirement that fixed gear be marked with an identifying number does not lend itself to technology.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

Existing Federal and State requirements have been reviewed to ensure that there is no duplication of requirements.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

Most of the respondents are small businesses. Given the nature of and need for the requirements, no special modifications are regarded as necessary.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

NMFS and the USCG would not be able to enforce the fishery management measures.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

The collection is consistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Provide a copy of the PRA Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

The attached Federal Register notice (66 FR 42203, August 10, 2001) solicited public comment on this renewal. No comments were received. Consultation outside the agency is assured by the Pacific Coast Groundfish regulatory process, set forth in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and implementing regulations (Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan and 50 CFR 660, Subpart G).

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts are provided.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

None.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

There are no sensitive questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

The estimated total number of vessels affected is 1,046. There are four types of groundfish vessels which use the types of gear (longline, pot, set-net, vertical hook & line) that must be marked. Each vessel had a unique number of markings required because of variation in the gear. Estimating the total number of marks in the fleet as 12,317 (please refer to the attached table for details) and 15 minutes per marking, the burden is estimated to be 3,079 hours. The labor costs at \$12/hour are estimated to be \$36,948.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection.

The materials needed are paint and a paintbrush, or permanent ink applicator, and possibly a stencil. With most traps or pots, marking is done by means of a commercially available plastic tag that is fastened to the trap/pot by thin strands of wire and this tag number identified the owner of the trap/pot. The total number of marks in the fleet is estimated as 12,317 and the average cost per marking is approximately \$.25. The estimated total annual materials costs are:
 $12,317 \times .25 = \$3,079$

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

There would be no Federal costs associated with this collection because marking verification would be included as part of other enforcement actions and no information is received to process.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB 83-I.

Burden hour and cost estimates have been adjusted to eliminate vessels mistakenly included as respondents in previous estimates but who are not subject to these requirements.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

The results of this collection will not be published.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

N/A.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

This collection does not employ statistical methods.

§ 660.322

50 CFR Ch. VI (10–1–00 Edition)

measures annually and during the fishing year. Management of the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery will be conducted consistent with the standards and procedures in the PCGFMP and other applicable law. The PCGFMP is available from the Regional Director or the Council.

(b) *Annual actions.* The Pacific Coast Groundfish fishery is managed on a calendar year basis. Even though specifications and management measures are announced annually, they may apply for more than 1 year. In general, management measures are designed to achieve, but not exceed, the specifications, particularly optimum yields (harvest guidelines and quotas), commercial harvest guidelines and quotas, limited entry and open access allocations, or other approved fishery allocations.

(c) *Routine management measures.* Management measures designated “routine” at §660.323(b) may be adjusted during the year after recommendation from the Council, approval by NMFS, and publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(d) *Changes to the regulations.* Regulations under this subpart may be promulgated, removed, or revised. Any such action will be made according to

the framework standards and procedures in the PCGFMP and other applicable law, and will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[61 FR 34572, July 2, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 49100, Sept. 10, 1999]

§ 660.322 Gear restrictions.

(a) *General.* The following types of fishing gear are authorized, with the restrictions set forth in this section: Trawl (bottom and pelagic), hook-and-line, longline, pot or trap, set net (anchored gillnet or trammel net), and spear.

(b) *Trawl gear*—(1) *Use.* Trawl nets may be used on and off the seabed. Trawl nets may be fished with or without otter boards, and may use warps or cables to herd fish.

(2) *Mesh size.* Trawl nets may be used if they meet the minimum mesh sizes set forth in this paragraph (b)(2). The minimum sizes apply throughout the net. Minimum trawl mesh size requirements are met if a 20-gauge stainless steel wedge, 3.0 or 4.5 inches (7.6 or 11.4 cm) (depending on the gear being measured), less one thickness of the metal wedge, can be passed with only thumb pressure through at least 16 of 20 sets of two meshes each of wet mesh.

MINIMUM TRAWL-MESH SIZE IN INCHES¹

Trawl conception type	Subarea				
	Vancouver	Columbia	Eureka	Monterey	
Bottom	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Pelagic	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0

¹ Metric conversion: 3.0 inches = 7.6 cm; 4.5 inches = 11.4 cm.

(3) *Chafing gear.* Chafing gear may encircle no more than 50 percent of the net’s circumference, except as provided in paragraph (b)(5) of this section. No section of chafing gear may be longer than 50 meshes of the net to which it is attached. Except at the corners, the terminal end of each section of chafing gear must not be connected to the net. (The terminal end is the end farthest from the mouth of the net.) Chafing gear must be attached outside any riblines and restraining straps. There is no limit on the number of sections of chafing gear on a net.

(4) *Codends.* Only single-walled codends may be used in any trawl. Double-walled codends are prohibited.

(5) *Pelagic trawls.* Pelagic trawl nets must have unprotected footropes at the trawl mouth, and must not have rollers, bobbins, tires, wheels, rubber discs, or any similar device anywhere in the net. Sweeplines, including the bottom leg of the bridle, must be bare. For at least 20 ft (6.15 m) immediately behind the footrope or headrope, bare ropes or mesh of 16-inch (40.6-cm) minimum mesh size must completely encircle the net. A band of mesh (a “skirt”) may encircle the net under transfer cables,

lifting or splitting straps (chokers), but must be: Over riblines and restraining straps; the same mesh size and coincide knot-to-knot with the net to which it is attached; and no wider than 16 meshes.

(c) *Fixed gear.* (1) Fixed gear (longline, trap or pot, set net and stationary hook-and-line gear, including commercial vertical hook-and-line gear) must be:

(i) Marked at the surface, at each terminal end, with a pole, flag, light, radar reflector, and a buoy, except as provided in paragraph (c)(2) of this section.

(ii) Attended at least once every 7 days.

(2) Commercial vertical hook-and-line gear that is closely tended may be marked only with a single buoy of sufficient size to float the gear. "Closely tended" means that a vessel is within visual sighting distance or within 0.25 nm (463 m) as determined by electronic navigational equipment, of its commercial vertical hook-and-line gear.

(3) A buoy used to mark fixed gear under paragraph (c)(1)(i) or (c)(2) of this section must be marked with a number clearly identifying the owner or operator of the vessel. The number may be either:

(i) If required by applicable state law, the vessel's number, the commercial fishing license number, or buoy brand number; or

(ii) The vessel documentation number issued by the USCG, or, for an undocumented vessel, the vessel registration number issued by the state.

(d) *Set nets.* Fishing for groundfish with set nets is prohibited in the fishery management area north of 38°00' N. lat.

(e) *Traps or pots.* Traps must have biodegradable escape panels constructed with # 21 or smaller untreated cotton twine in such a manner that an opening at least 8 inches (20.3 cm) in diameter results when the twine deteriorates.

(f) *Recreational fishing.* The only types of fishing gear authorized for recreational fishing are hook-and-line and spear.

(g) *Spears.* Spears may be propelled by hand or by mechanical means.

§ 660.323 Catch restrictions.

(a) Groundfish species harvested in the territorial sea (0–3 nm) will be counted toward the catch limitations in this section.

(1) *Black rockfish.* The trip limit for black rockfish (*Sebastes melanops*) for commercial fishing vessels using hook-and-line gear between the U.S.-Canada border and Cape Alava (48°09'30" N. lat.), and between Destruction Island (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Point (46°38'10" N. lat.), is 100 lbs (45 kg) or 30 percent, by weight of all fish on board, whichever is greater, per vessel per fishing trip.

(2) *Nontrawl sablefish.* This paragraph (a)(2) applies to the regular and mop-up seasons for the nontrawl limited entry sablefish fishery north of 36° N. lat., except for paragraphs (a)(2)(ii), (iv), and (vii) of this section, which also apply to the open access fishery north of 36° N. lat. Limited entry and open access fixed gear sablefish fishing south of 36° N. lat. is governed by routine management measures imposed under paragraph (b) of this section.

(i) *Sablefish endorsement.* A vessel may not participate in the regular or mop-up season for the nontrawl limited entry fishery, unless the vessel's owner holds (by ownership or otherwise) a limited entry permit for that vessel, affixed with both a gear endorsement for longline or trap (or pot) gear, and a sablefish endorsement.

(ii) *Pre-season closure—open access and limited entry fisheries.* (A) Sablefish taken with fixed gear in the limited entry or open access fishery in the EEZ may not be retained or landed during the 48 hours immediately before the start of the regular season for the nontrawl limited entry sablefish fishery.

(B) All fixed gear used to take and retain groundfish must be out of EEZ waters during the 48 hours immediately before the opening of the regular season for the nontrawl limited entry sablefish fishery.

(iii) *Regular season—nontrawl limited entry sablefish fishery.* (A) The Regional Administrator will announce a season for waters north of 36° N. lat. to start on any day from August 1 through September 30, based on consultations with the Council, taking into account tidal

(B) minimize the mortality of bycatch which cannot be avoided;

(12) assess the type and amount of fish caught and released alive during recreational fishing under catch and release fishery management programs and the mortality of such fish, and include conservation and management measures that, to the extent practicable, minimize mortality and ensure the extended survival of such fish;

(13) include a description of the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors which participate in the fishery and, to the extent practicable, quantify trends in landings of the managed fishery resource by the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors; and

(14) to the extent that rebuilding plans or other conservation and management measures which reduce the overall harvest in a fishery are necessary, allocate any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery.

97-453, 99-659, 101-627, 102-251, 104-297

(b) DISCRETIONARY PROVISIONS.--Any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary, with respect to any fishery, may--

(1) require a permit to be obtained from, and fees to be paid to, the Secretary, with respect to--

(A) any fishing vessel of the United States fishing, or wishing to fish, in the exclusive economic zone [or special areas,]* or for anadromous species or Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond such zone [or areas]*;

(B) the operator of any such vessel; or

(C) any United States fish processor who first receives fish that are subject to the plan;

(2) designate zones where, and periods when, fishing shall be limited, or shall not be permitted, or shall be permitted only by specified types of fishing vessels or with specified types and quantities of fishing gear;

(3) establish specified limitations which are necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery on the--

(A) catch of fish (based on area, species, size, number, weight, sex, bycatch, total biomass, or other factors);

(B) sale of fish caught during commercial, recreational, or charter fishing, consistent with any applicable Federal and State safety and quality requirements; and

(C) transshipment or transportation of fish or fish products under permits issued pursuant to section 204;

(4) prohibit, limit, condition, or require the use of specified types and quantities of fishing gear, fishing vessels, or equipment for such vessels, including devices which may be required to facilitate enforcement of the provisions of this Act;

(5) incorporate (consistent with the national standards, the other provisions of this Act, and any other applicable law) the relevant fishery conservation and management measures of the coastal States nearest to the fishery;

(6) establish a limited access system for the fishery in order to achieve optimum yield if, in developing such system, the Council and the Secretary take into account--

(A) present participation in the fishery,

(B) historical fishing practices in, and dependence on, the fishery,

(C) the economics of the fishery,

(D) the capability of fishing vessels used in the fishery to engage in other fisheries,

(E) the cultural and social framework relevant to the fishery and any affected fishing communities, and

(F) any other relevant considerations;

(7) require fish processors who first receive fish that are subject to the plan to submit data (other than economic data) which are necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery;

(8) require that one or more observers be carried on board a vessel of the United States engaged in fishing for species that are subject to the plan, for the purpose of collecting data necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery; except that such a vessel shall not be required to carry an observer on board if the facilities of the vessel for the quartering of an observer, or for carrying out observer functions, are so inadequate or unsafe that the health or safety of the observer or the safe operation of the vessel would be jeopardized;

(9) assess and specify the effect which the conservation and management measures of the plan will have on the stocks of naturally spawning anadromous fish in the region;

(10) include, consistent with the other provisions of this Act, conservation and management measures that provide harvest incentives for participants within each gear group to employ fishing practices that result in lower levels of bycatch or in lower levels of the mortality of bycatch;

(11) reserve a portion of the allowable biological catch of the fishery for use in scientific research; and

(12) prescribe such other measures, requirements, or conditions and restrictions as are determined to be necessary and appropriate for the conservation and management of the fishery.

97-453, 104-297

they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 3, 2001.

Madeleine Clayton,

*Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 01-20115 Filed 8-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080701C]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Survey of Intent and Capacity to Harvest and Process Fish and Shellfish (Northwest Region)

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before October 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to William L. Robinson, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 (phone 206-526-6140).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Telephone interviews have been used by NMFS to determine the amounts and species of fish that would not be used by domestic processors and could be made available to foreign and joint venture operations. Pacific whiting, the species most recently utilized by to foreign and joint venture operations, became fully utilized by domestic processors in 1991. However, minor opportunities for joint venture processing of shortbelly rockfish and jack mackerel continued to exist. In

December 2000, the West Coast groundfish resource was declared to be fully utilized by domestic fisheries. The supporting groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.303 (a) were revised to reflect this change.

Telephone interviews continue to be necessary to determine the intent and capacity of the various sectors of the domestic fleet to harvest and process Pacific whiting. Each year the Pacific whiting optimum yield is divided between the treaty Indian tribes on the coast of Washington State and the three sectors of the non-tribal commercial fisheries (motherships, catcher/processors, and shore-base processor). If it is determined that a sector will be unable to use all of their allocation before the end of the fishing year, NMFS may reapportion whiting to the other sectors to ensure full utilization of the resource. Therefore, information collected from the groundfish industry in telephone interviews continues to be valuable and important in groundfish management.

II. Method of Collection

Telephone interview.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0243.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations (owners or operators of vessels that catch or process fish in ocean waters 0-200 nautical miles offshore Washington, Oregon, and California).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 60.

Estimated Time Per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 5 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or

included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 3, 2001.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-20116 Filed 8-9-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080701E]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Northeast Region Gear Identification Requirements

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before October 9, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to William L. Robinson, NMFS, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 (phone 206-526-6140).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The success of fisheries management programs depends significantly on regulatory compliance. Requirements that fishing gear be marked are essential to facilitate enforcement. The ability to link fishing gear to the vessel owner or operator is crucial to enforcement of regulations issued under the authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management. The marking of fishing gear is also valuable in actions concerning damage, loss, and civil

proceedings. The regulations specify fishing gear must be marked with the vessel's official number, federal permit or tag number, or some other specified form of identification. The regulations further specify how the gear is to be marked, e.g., location and color. Law enforcement personnel rely on this information to assure compliance with fisheries management regulations. Gear that is not properly identified is confiscated. The identifying number on fishing gear is used by NMFS, the U.S. Coast Guard, and other marine agencies in issuing violations, prosecutions, and other enforcement actions. Gear marking helps ensure that a vessel harvests fish only from its own traps/pots/other gear and that traps/pots/other gear are not illegally placed. Gear violations are more readily prosecuted when the gear is marked, allowing for more cost-effective enforcement. Cooperating fishermen also use the number to report placement or occurrence of gear in unauthorized areas. Regulation-compliant fishermen ultimately benefit as unauthorized and illegal fishing is deterred and more burdensome regulations are avoided.

II. Method of Collection

The physical marking of fishing buoys is done by the affected public (fishermen in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery) according to regulation.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648-0352.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations (fishermen in the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery).

Estimated Number of Respondents: 1,033.

Estimated Time Per Response: 15 minutes per marking (with an average of 11.6 buoy markings per vessel).

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,002.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$4,503.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information

on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 3, 2001.

Madeleine Clayton,

*Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 010723185-1185-01]

Nominations for Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of request for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is establishing a Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas (MPA) pursuant to Executive Order 13158 and is seeking nominations for membership on this Committee.

DATES: Nominations must be postmarked on or before September 15, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Nominations should be sent to Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910
ATTN: Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roger Griffis, NOAA, (301) 713-3155
Extension 104. E-mail: Roger.B.Griffis@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 4, 2001, Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans released a statement announcing the Administration's retention of Executive Order 13158. The Secretary also announced his intention to appoint a Marine Protection Area Advisory Committee. To complete this task the Secretary has decided to seek nominations in addition to those previously solicited (see 65 FR 50503, August 18, 2000) and initiate a review of all nominees.

Executive Order 13158 directs the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior to seek the

expert advice and recommendations of non-Federal scientists, resource managers, and other interested persons and organizations through a Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior to focus Federal Government efforts to develop information about existing MPAs, to help identify areas where research may support management of marine resources through MPAs, and to undertake other appropriate MPA activities. The terms of Executive Order 13158 make clear that it is not intended to supplant existing statutory authorities or to create new legal authority to regulate marine resources. Activities conducted under Executive Order 13158 will be consistent with current law. The MPA Advisory Committee will be established through a public process that will ensure the Administration will benefit from a broad, balanced range of expertise and views as it undertakes MPA-related activities. Initial committee members will be selected for two or three year terms of service. The Committee will meet at least once annually; however, members of subcommittees, task forces, and/or working groups established by the Committee may meet on a more frequent basis. Members of the Committee will not be compensated, but may be allowed travel and per diem expenses.

The Department of Commerce is seeking a diverse group of approximately 25 highly qualified individuals to serve on the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee. Nominations are sought for non-Federal scientists, resource managers, and persons representing other interests or organizations. Individuals seeking membership on the Advisory Committee should possess demonstrable expertise in a field related to MPAs and/or an interest affected by MPAs. Nominees will also be considered based on their ability to contribute to a balance of interests and points of view.

Nominations are encouraged from all interested parties, such as scientific societies; academic and research institutions; groups or governments representing Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Caribbean Islanders and Pacific islanders; states, territories and localities; interest groups such as the fishing (recreational and commercial), boating, diving, recreational, maritime, historical and philanthropic communities; conservation organizations; mineral and